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NEW TYPE OF LIFEBOAT

Bergen, 5 February 1953 -- Captain J. Lorentz has recently applied for a patent on an entirely new type of lifeboat and a launching method which should eliminate many of the weaknesses of the old method. The new lifeboat can be launched in less than a minute and it can be done by one man. Davits and ropes are not necessary. Instead, there is a boat turret with a long U-shaped rail which is swung out from the side of the ship; at the same time a stopper is loosened at the rear of the rail. The rail drops and forms an inclined plane so that the boat slides down into the water.

The boat, built of aluminum, is completely nonsinkable and noncapsizable. It is constructed such that it comes down on the water practically horizontally and far out from the ship. The model has been tested at heights which are about three times the length of the lifeboat, with satisfactory results.

The lifeboat is covered and has watertight hatch openings which can be opened and closed from both inside and outside. It also has a periscope mast and sails. Moreover, the lifeboat, by a special device at both ends, can be made fast to and released from the deck of the ship and also from within the closed boat. Thus, in cases in which the boat cannot be launched, the lifeboat remains stationary until the ship sinks and then it is released.

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